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URUGUAY  
THE CASES OF FOURTEEN  
PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny  
Exemption(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full  
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Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

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was appointed labour delegate to the International Labour Organization by the Uruguayan Government.

Sr. Rodríguez has served half his ten year sentence and should be eligible for *libertad anticipada* under Uruguayan law. He is held in Punta Carretas prison, where he is allowed visits by his wife and two children. He has been granted a visa by the Luxembourg Government.

Ana María SALVO SANCHEZ de ESPIGA

Ana María Salvo Sanchez de Espiga, aged 24, a nurse, was detained by members of the Armed Forces of Uruguay on 3 November 1978 at her home in Montevideo, where she was living with her parents and two small children. Despite the family's efforts to locate her, no official statement has been made about her place of detention or the reason for her arrest.



In 1974, Ana María Salvo took up legal residence in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she worked as a nurse at the Pirovana Hospital. On 13 July 1976 she was abducted at her home by members of the Uruguayan and Argentinian Security Forces. Ana María Salvo was one of twenty-two Uruguayans abducted on 13 and 14 July 1976 in the area of Buenos Aires; fourteen of the twenty-two Uruguayans were transferred to Uruguay and later recognized by the Government as in detention in that country.

Cases indicating that Uruguayan military and police personnel were operating in Argentina date back to 1974 and 1975. It is estimated that during 1976 over 70 Uruguayan refugees were abducted in Argentina, many of whom have since disappeared or eventually appeared in detention in Uruguay.

According to official communiqués issued by the Uruguayan Armed Forces dated 28 and 29 October 1976, the fourteen Uruguayans who disappeared in July 1976 and later turned up in prisons in Uruguay had faked their disappearances in order to clandestinely travel to Uruguay to put into operation the aims of a new political party, the *Partido por la Victoria del Pueblo* (People's Victory Party).

The Uruguayan Government's claims that the fourteen refugees had fabricated their disappearances in order to clandestinely travel into Uruguay is contradicted by the numerous testimonies and eye-witness accounts of the abductions in Buenos Aires and *habeas corpus* writs filed immediately after the abductions, sometimes through the United Nations High Commission for Refugees - UNHCR. The UNHCR filed a writ of *habeas corpus* on behalf of Ana María Salvo immediately after her abduction.

On 29 November 1976, Ana María Salvo appeared in detention in the military prison for women at Punta de Rieles, Uruguay, and was later tried for "assisting a subversive association". On 29 December 1977 she was freed under *libertad vigilada* and took up residence in her parents' home in Montevideo. Under *libertad vigilada* the ex-prisoner was required to report to the military authorities every fifteen days and not permitted to leave Uruguay.

To date the Uruguayan authorities have made no official statement about the re-detention of Ana María Salvo on 3 November last year and she is still held incommunicado.